

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 08USNATO453, ALLIES FIND BRIEFING ON AFGHANISTAN NIE “GLOOMY,”

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08USNATO453**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08USNATO453	2008-12-05 08:31	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET//NOFORN	Mission USNATO

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1551045.ece>

```
VZCZCXRO9168
PP RUEHPW
DE RUEHNO #0453/01 3400831
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
P 050831Z DEC 08
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2532
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 0026
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 0011
RUEHNO/USDELMAS BRUSSELS BE PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USJFCOM NORFOLK VA PRIORITY
RHMFISS/USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 05 USNATO 000453

NOFORN
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR RPM, SCA/A, SCA/PB

EO 12958 DECL: 12/04/2018
TAGS PREL, PGOV, MOPS, MARR, NATO, PTER, PINR, AF, PK, IN
SUBJECT: ALLIES FIND BRIEFING ON AFGHANISTAN NIE "GLOOMY,"
BUT FOCUS ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SITUATION
USNATO 00000453 001.2 OF 005
Classified By: Charge d'Affaires W. Scott Reid III. Reasons 1.4 (b), (c), (d).
```

1. (S/REL NATO) Summary. National Intelligence Officer (NiO) for South Asia, Dr. Peter Lavoy, briefed NATO Permanent Representatives on the Ne

KEY CHALLENGES

2. (S/REL NATO) NiO Lavoy opened his briefing to a November 25 informal meeting of NATO Permanent Representatives (PermReps) by saying the sit

3. (S/REL NATO) Lavoy described FATA as the command and control center for al-Qaida worldwide, and said a few hundred senior and mid-level tre

SOURCES OF INSTABILITY

4. (S/REL NATO) Turning to Afghanistan, Lavoy underlined that there are more significant factors than al-Qaida that contribute to the bleak se

5. (S/REL NATO) The Taliban has become more militarily effective and is demonstrating more sophisticated infantry, communications, and command

6. (S/REL NATO) Lavoy pointed to the growing professionalism and performance of the Afghan National Army (ANA) as a good news story, but noted

7. (S/REL NATO) Even if the international community rectifies training gaps in Afghan army and police development, Lavoy concluded, efforts wc

PAKISTAN'S PRECARIOUS SITUATION

8. (S/REL NATO) Lavoy commented on two causes of instability in western Pakistan that could cause Pakistan to completely lose control of its F

9. (S/REL NATO) Although Pakistan now identifies both al-Qaida and the Taliban as existential threats, Lavoy said, Pakistani government instit

10. (S/REL NATO) Lavoy said that after the storming of Lal Masjid (Red Mosque) in July 2007, the Pakistani government had tried to sever ties

11. (S/REL NATO) Ongoing Pakistani Army operations in Bajaur Agency are missing a counterinsurgency strategy to assist the population post-cor

12. (S/REL NATO) Amidst the problems on the frontier, the Pakistani economy is in tatters, Lavoy continued. The International Monetary Fund's

IRAN'S ROLE

13. (S/REL NATO) Lavoy responded to PermReps' questions about Iran during the discussion. He said Iran calibrates its posture in Afghanistan.

POSITIVE POLITICAL SIGNS

14. (S/REL NATO) Moving to a more optimistic topic, Lavoy mentioned that political signals from India may indicate a trend of toned-down rhet

¶15. (S/REL NATO) On Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, Lavoy characterized Karzai's relationship with Pakistani President Zardari as trustful and

PERMREPS' DISCUSSION

¶16. (S/REL NATO) The Secretary General (SYG) thanked Dr. Lavoy for presenting the "expose" on the regional situation in South Asia. Several Pe

¶17. (S/REL NATO) Several PermReps were interested to know how the NIE affects the ongoing National Security Council strategic review. Ambassac

¶18. (S/NF) The Canadian PermRep agreed the importance of a vastly larger and more competent ANA force, and proposed that up to 200,000 troops

¶19. (S/REL NATO) The Turkish PermRep said this briefing, while pessimistic in tone, was timed perfectly, and urged the NAC to craft strong mes
NATO, and an urgent requirement for NATO to put added pressure on Pakistan.

WHAT SHOULD NATO DO?

¶20. (S/REL NATO) Ambassador Volker suggested three specific areas where NATO could help improve the regional situation. He said the Alliance r

¶21. (S/REL NATO) Lavoy endorsed these ideas, and added that despite the troubling picture in Afghanistan in 2008, Afghanistan is "winnable," &
-- NATO should consider shifting the ISAF center of gravity to the district level. -- The international community needs to engage tribes withou

REID